L

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS

Ackd: 18/10/62

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Principal School Medical Officer

for the year 1961

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
LIBRARY
19 OCT 1962

I. D. LEITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Principal School Medical Officer

for the year 1961

I. D. LEITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30116132

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1961 on the health of South Shields schoolchildren and on the work of the School Health Services.

The number of medical inspections carried out showed a considerable increase 5,975 as against 4,363 in the previous year. This was achieved in spite of the fact that the vacancy for a school medical officer continued to be unfilled until August. The general condition of the school children examined was found to be unsatisfactory in only 19 (0.32%) instances as against 31 (0.69%) in 1960.

Of the eye defects, which constitute the largest numerical category found at routine inspections, there was an increase in the number of cases of squint, 67 (of whom 41 were school entrants) requiring treatment as against 57 including 20 entrants in 1960. 1,312 school children had spectacles prescribed compared with 1,466 in the previous year. My reasons for referring to this type of defect is to draw attention to the continuing size of the problem and also to emphasize the importance of adequate natural and artificial lighting without glare both in school and at home. It is unfortunate that the underlying causes of visual defect in children still remain obscure.

It is pleasing to record that the efforts to achieve cleanliness have been rewarded by the attainment of the lowest figures ever recorded since cleanliness surveys began in 1947; the figures of 3.2% and 2.7% found to be verminous in the first and second halves of the year respectively reflect the conscientious work of the school nurses in co-operation with teachers and parents.

The main notifiable disease affecting school children was measles and the epidemic of this disease in the early part of the year affected 783 school children, mainly junior pupils. Tuberculosis notifications were further reduced, whilst of the non-notifiable infections, 192 school children were reported to have chickenpox, 71 mumps and 43 german measles.

There have been fairly good responses of school children to the preventive inoculation schemes; a fourth injection of poliomyelitis vaccine was authorised for children aged 5 to 12 and this was promptly carried out with no disturbance to school programmes. The B.C.G. acceptance rate continues to improve and the reductions in the number of positive reactors to the tuberculin test is a satisfying trend.

The public swimming baths at Derby Street re-opened at the beginning of the year and improved facilities are now available to the schools. I would however draw your attention to the remarks of the Physical Education Organisers (on page 17) concerning the difficulties in teaching swimming to young children and the desirability of an additional shallow pond in any future scheme for a new swimming bath.

The retirement of Mrs. Mary Dray formerly Head Teacher of St. Stephen's Special School took place during the year and it is a pleasure to record the many years of excellent co-operation given by Mrs. Dray to the School Health Service.

I would like to thank once more, the members of the Committee for their encouragement during the year; I am also most grateful to the Director of Education and his staff and many teachers without whose help the service would be ineffective. To my own staff I am especially indebted for their conscientious work.

I. D. LEITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Principal School Medical Officer.

Public Health Department,
SOUTH SHIELDS.
July, 1962.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Staff

The establishment of the School Health Service consists of:

(*a*) One whole time and three part time school medical officers (with complementary duties under the Local Health Authority). For more than six months the establishment was short of one part time medical officer due to difficulty in filling a vacancy. Two temporary medical officers employed on a sessional basis were engaged to replace the services of one of the permanent medical officers who had been granted prolonged leave of absence.

(*b*) One principal, two whole time and one part time school dental officers. The only full time dental officer employed during the year was the principal.

(*c*) Owing to additional schools etc., the establishment was increased by one school nurse and there is now the equivalent of nine full time school nurses in the service. There is also one full time school nurse at Cleadon Park Special School.

(*d*) One assistant nurse.

(*e*) Two dental surgery assistants.

(*f*) One speech therapist.

(*g*) One educational psychologist.

Co-ordination

The work of the School Health Service is fully co-ordinated with other branches of the Public Health Department. The details have been outlined in the Annual Report for 1960 and there were no changes in 1961.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE IN RELATION TO SCHOOLS MAINTAINED BY THE AUTHORITY

	Special schools	*Other schools*
Number of children on registers at the end of 1961	243	18.697
Average attendance for the year	218	17.488
Percentage of average attendance for the year	87.88	92.09
Number of schools	2	53
Number of nursery classes and accommodation	3 classes (1 full-time and 2 part-time) with accommodation for 60 (full-time).	

MEDICAL INSPECTION

1. Periodic Medical Inspections

	Number of parents present	*Number of children inspected*
Entrants	1,837	1,923
Other periodic inspections	1,507	1.983
Leavers	499	2,069
Total	3,843	5,975

2. Other Inspections

Number of special inspections	1,754
Number of re-inspections	1,918
Total	3,672

General Condition

The following is a classification of the general condition of the children examined at routine medical inspections.

	Number	*per cent.*
Satisfactory	5,956	99.68
Unsatisfactory	19	0.32

The high standard of nutrition was well maintained during the year.

Cleanliness Surveys

Two routine surveys were carried out throughout all schools in the town by the school nurses. Head Teachers were given lists of children who required attention and cleansing notices to this effect were posted to the parents concerned. At the end of each survey Head Teachers were informed of the results. The continuing improvement effected by this arrangement is very satisfactory.

19,519 children were examined at the first survey and 18,971 at the second. The percentage of children found to be unclean at these inspections were 3.2 and 2.7 respectively.

This, compared with the previous nine years, is satisfactory and shows the lowest figures yet recorded.

1952......	7.6%	7.1%
1953......	8.2%	7.2%
1954......	6.3%	5.8%
1955......	5.9%	5.9%
1956......	5.1%	4.2%
1957......	4.2%	3.3%
1958......	3.5%	4.3%
1959......	4.0%	3.8%
1960......	3.4%	4.0%
1961......	3.2%	2.7%

The average and extreme percentages of uncleanliness in the departments during the year were as follows:—

1st Survey	*Overall*	*Best*	*Worst*
(*a*) Senior Boys	0.2%	Nil	1.0%
(*b*) Senior Girls	1.6%	0.8%	4.6%
(*c*) Senior Mixed	3.4%	1.7%	10.2%
(*d*) Infants	3.7%	Nil	9.0%
(*e*) Junior Mixed	3.7%	1.1%	11.4%
2nd Survey			
(*a*) Senior Boys	0.3%	0.1%	1.0%
(*b*) Senior Girls	1.4%	0.9%	4.7%
(*c*) Infants	2.8%	Nil	6.0%
(*d*) Senior Mixed	2.8%	0.8%	13.7%
(*e*) Junior Mixed	3.3%	0.6%	25.5%

There is no doubt that it is this effort of the school nurses which was mainly responsible for the good results obtained. At the first survey there were four schools with less than one per cent uncleanliness and six departments had the same good record at the second survey. As in previous years the teachers played an important roll in this combined endeavour to promote and maintain cleanliness. In the main the parents also co-operated but it should be mentioned that in certain cases persistent persuasion and even threats of prosecution had to be used before the desired result was achieved.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

Number of children attending the school clinic in 1961	1,741
Number of children treated	1,259

The total number of attendances was 6,891 as compared with 6,823 in 1960.

Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint

During the year 139 cases were submitted for refraction to the School Medical Officer and 1,206 to other sources. 1,312 had spectacles prescribed and 1,299 were supplied during the year. In addition 3 children were referred to the Ingham Infirmary for correction of squint.

82 children attended the clinic for treatment or observation in other eye conditions.

Diseases and Defects of the Ear, Nose and Throat

Many cases were again dealt with by Mr. P. McMurray, the ear, nose and throat surgeon. He attended 29 sessions at the school clinic during the year. 338 children were referred to him by the school medical officers. These children made 398 attendances and 178 were referred by the surgeon for operations for middle ear disease, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and sinus and antrum infections.

In all, 497 school children received treatment in hospitals, referred either by the School Health service or by the family doctor. In addition, 137 children received other forms of treatment for disease of the ear, nose and throat at the clinic.

Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

During the year 45 cases were referred to the Orthopaedic Department at the local hospitals. Such cases are now the responsibility of the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon appointed in June, 1960. The following cases received attention during 1961:—

Foot deformities	33
Leg deformities	5
Abnormality of the spine	1
Undescended testes	2
Torticollis or wry neck	1
Hernia	3

As a result of expert treatment these children were benefitted considerably and it is a pleasure to place on record our appreciation of this very important work.

Diseases of the Skin

825 children received treatment at the clinic as follows:—

Ringworm (scalp)	2
Ringworm (body)	2
Scabies	26
Impetigo	82
Other skin diseases	713

In 1960, 494 children were treated. The figures in the main skin conditions mentioned remain within reasonable proportions. The overall increase was mainly due to minor skin infections which soon responded to anti-biotic therapy. The problem of allergic skin manifestations, especially during fruit-eating seasons should be mentioned. These appear to occur more frequently and careful management including dieting were necessary before cure or even improvement resulted.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

	1959	1960	1961
Pupils inspected	10,700	9,734	8,491
Found to require treatment	7,242	6,655	5,459
Actually treated	2,230	2,203	3,014
Attendances for treatment	6,305	6,337	6,349
Half-days devoted to (*a*) Inspection	75	82	51
(*b*) Treatment	863	842	688
Fillings—Permanent Teeth	2,439	2,438	2,288
Temporary Teeth	209	142	140
Extractions—Permanent Teeth	1,186	865	641
Temporary Teeth	3,460	2,785	2,798
General Anaesthetics for extraction	1,278	1,320	1,289
Other Operations—Permanent Teeth	537	689	785
Temporary Teeth	71	229	276

Mr. A. B. Gibson, B.D.S., the Principal School Dental Officer, reports as follows:—

As can be seen from the yearly figures, the number of children inspected at routine school visits, attendances for treatment, and treatment carried out is similar to the previous year, the proportion of each type of treatment also being constant.

Patients have been referred by special arrangement to the consultant orthodontist at the General Hospital, Sunderland, and to the staff of the Newcastle Dental Hospital for advice. This assistance is invaluable allowing difficult orthodontic cases to commence treatment and preventing prolonged waiting periods for treatment by the consultants concerned.

Staffing

There has been no change. The staff consists of the Principal School Dental Officer, and two part-time officers, Mr. J. Blunt, L.D.S., and Mr. J. A. McKelvey, B.D.S., working three and five sessions per week respectively. Without the part-time assistance the present level of work could not be maintained. With the appointment of Mr. R. Burn, to commence duties as full-time officer in January, 1962, and Mr. Nirsimloo as part-time officer the position will be greatly improved.

Clinic

No major items of equipment have needed replacement, the surgeries being fully equipped with modern fittings and instruments.

General Remarks

Dental caries remains a major problem, all the more serious because with the carrying out of simple measures the present gloomy picture could be changed considerably. It cannot be too often stated that the following would help :---

(1) Regular Inspection and Treatment.—Six monthly inspections are the ideal for children, to detect early dental decay or other defects.

(2) Talks, Films, Instruction at School.—To show the need for treatment and instruction on caring for the teeth, by cleansing, rinsing and above all by eating the right " cleansing " foods, and avoiding sweets and soft carbohydrates.

(3) Example and Encouragement.—Few parents today are unaware of the dangers of eating carbohydrates and the necessity for dental care. Only by parental example and encouragement can young children be expected to look after their teeth in the thorough manner necessary, and few children will voluntarily suggest visiting the dentist.

Unhappily, a large proportion of parents ignore the treatment forms given to the children at school inspections, as can be seen by subsequent deterioration of their teeth at the next inspection, or a visit to the clinic with " toothache."

In conclusion it is encouraging to find numbers of children who have had treatment for the first time, returning of their own accord at a later date for a " check up." Such interest gives hope for the future.

Tuberculosis

There was a decrease in non-respiratory tuberculosis as compared with 1960. The figures following are a summary of the notification of tuberculosis received by the medical officer of health, or otherwise ascertained.

Age-Group	1960		1961	
	Respiratory		Respiratory	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
5— 9 years	1	1	2	2
10—14 years	2	2	1	1
Total	6		6	
	Non-Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
5— 9 years	—	—	—	—
10—14 years	—	2	—	—
Total	2		—	

For the twelfth year in succession no deaths occurred in these age groups from tuberculosis.

The following table shows the *average yearly* notifications of and deaths from tuberculosis among children of school age in five-year periods since 1921:—

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1921-25 ...	62	17	62	14
1926-30 ...	49	13	71	14
1931-35 ...	35	11	65	16
1936-40 ...	21	3	40	6
1941-45 ...	25	2	30	5
1946-50 ...	27	1	15	3
1951-55 ...	27	—	7	—
1955-60 ...	12	—	2	—
1961	*6*	—	—	—

B.C.G. Vaccination of 13 year old scholars

The results of B.C.G. testing and vaccination are given in the sub-joined table, together with a comparison of the figures for 1960.

It must be emphasised that this is probably the only opportunity most of the children will ever have of being protected from tuberculosis and certainly the period when the greatest number are eligible. Such protection will carry them over the years of their lives when they are most susceptible.

	1960	1961
No. of 13-year-old children on registers	2,157	1,880
No. of children offered tuberculin testing and vaccination if necessary	2,157	1,880
No. of consents received	1,615	1,499
Percentage of consents	75.0%	79.7%
No. of refusals	355	258
No. not returned	123	66
No. vaccinated or tested previously ...	58	48
No. already notified as tuberculous ...	6	9

	1960		1961	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
No. given first Tuberculin Test...	791	809	751	735
Positive	89	104	82	62
Percentage* ...	11.2	12.9	10.9	8.4
Negative	669	677	654	662
Percentage* ...	84.6	83.7	87.1	90.1
No. vaccinated with B.C.G.	669	677	654	661
Percentage* ...	84.6	83.7	87.1	89.9
No. invited to be Mass X-rayed ...	422	409	282	283
No. actually Mass X-rayed	259	259	211	162
Found to be tuberculous...	1	1	—	—
Other defects found	—	—	1	1

*Percentage of number of children tested.

It is worthy of note that the percentages of negative results on testing has increased annually from 1954 as follows:—

68.3, 72.6, 75.9, 75.8, 79.4, 83.2, 84.1 and 88.6% respectively.

These are the children who can be and are vaccinated with B.C.G. Vaccine and this increase in the negative results is probably due to the tubercle-free milk supply and to the decreasing pool of infection in the Borough.

The parents of children reacting positively to the tuberculin test are now advised to have their children annually X-rayed whilst a visit by the health visitor helps to explain matters more fully and at the same time obtains the co-operation of the family in seeking a possible source of infection. The general practitioner is also informed and the help of the Chest Clinic in X-raying members of the family is most valuable.

B.C.G. Vaccination of Students, etc.

Under Ministry of Health Circular 7/59, B.C.G. Vaccination of students attending the Marine and Technical College was carried out with the following results:—

Tested	283
Positive	132
Percentage Positive	46.6
Negative	97
Percentage Negative	34.3
Vaccinated with B.C.G.	97
Percentage Vaccinated	34.3

As was to be expected this group, whose ages range between 15 and 46, had a high positive rate—no less than 46.6%. 24 of the students who had previously been vaccinated with B.C.G. proved positive on testing again.

School Contacts

In addition to the above vaccinations, scholars who were in contact with cases at home were offered vaccination by the Chest

Physician and the numbers so vaccinated were as follows:—

1951	5	children
1952	31	,,
1953	16	,,
1954	16	,,
1955	42	,,
1956	34	,,
1957	46	,,
1958	66	,,
1959	136	,,
1960	144	,,
1961	107	,,

Mass Radiography

565 children of the 13 year old age group who were positive on tuberculin testing or had refused testing were later invited to be X-rayed by the Mass Radiography Unit. 372 were actually X-rayed. 10 showing abnormal conditions, were referred to the Chest Clinic and two were subsequently found to be tuberculous.

These results were highly satisfactory and should help towards the ultimate reduction of the incidence of tuberculosis in the 15/24 age group which at present has the highest attack-rate.

Health Visiting

The health visitors paid 334 visits to homes of school children to ascertain whether the necessary treatment was being obtained. 26 visits in connection with uncleanliness, 373 visits after surgical and dental treatment. 28 in connection with orthopaedic cases, 492 regarding educationally sub-normal children, 103 in connection with child guidance cases, 226 regarding children for B.C.G. vaccination and 686 follow-up visits on discharge from hospitals.

In addition 233 visits were paid to the schools for routine medical inspections apart from 610 visits to the schools in connection with cleanliness surveys.

The health visitors and school nurses also attended 490 sessions at the general school clinics, 5 sessions at the dental clinics, 93 sessions for artificial sunlight treatment, 6 sessions for immunisations, 31 sessions at the ear, nose and throat clinic, 13 sessions for B.C.G. vaccination, 149 sessions for screen-testing of deaf children and 133 sessions in connection with vaccination against poliomyelitis. In addition the health visitors attend child welfare and other clinics.

Ultra-Violet Ray Therapy

34 children of school age made 438 attendances for treatment by ultra-violet radiation, including treatment by the Kromayer Lamp.

The following is a summary of the conditions treated:—

	Improved	*Ceased attending*	*Still attending*	*Total*
Debility	8	—	2	10
Bronchitis	9	—	1	10
Alopecia	8	—	—	8
Psoriasis	2	—	—	2
Acne	1	—	1	2
Asthma	2	—	—	2
Total	30	—	4	34

Diphtheria Immunisation

90 children of school age were immunised for the first time during the past year by the medical staff of the Health Department or by private medical attendants as under:—

Age	*Number*	*Age*	*Number*
5	34	10	3
6	19	11	4
7	14	12	1
8	6	13	—
9	8	14	1

In addition, 1,904 children under five years were immunised.

It was estimated that at the end of 1961, 79.2 per cent. of the school children in the Borough and 65.0 per cent. of the children under five years of age had been immunised.

394 school children received reinforcing or " boosting " injections during the year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

By the end of 1961, 83.4 per cent. of school children and 58.5 per cent. of children under 5 years of age had received one or more injections.

Physical Education

The following is the report of the Physical Education Organisers, Mr. W. Yielder and Miss J. W. Thomson:—

School swimming instruction was resumed at the Derby Street swimming bath at the beginning of the year after the completion of the modernisation of the bath. Although the actual swimming facilities have not been altered in any way the modernisation of the filtration plant and the improvement in amenities and surroundings makes teaching and learning a pleasanter and more enjoyable experience.

The first aim of swimming instruction in schools is to give all children the opportunity to learn to swim, and the main teaching effort is concentrated on non-swimmers in an endeavour to enable them to achieve those important initial strokes as quickly as possible. Ideally, non-swimmers should be given individual tuition but in the schools instruction must be given in classes generally of 30 or more pupils. The method commonly in use is to teach the basic movements of the chosen stroke, perhaps on land and then in water, before actual swimming strokes are attempted. Recently a new method of teaching non-swimmers has been devised. Known as the " flipper and float " method it makes use of cork or plastic floats and swim fins or flippers, and the basic idea is to get the child to propel himself on the surface of the water as soon as possible, beginning even in the second or third lesson, by means of these swimming aids, and then gradually to withdraw the aids as proficiency is acquired. Instruction in particular strokes then follows. This method of teaching has been introduced with school classes and the results so far have proved encouraging.

Where young children are concerned it is a great help in the teaching of non-swimmers if the initial teaching can be done in shallow water. Public swimming baths are usually built with adults in mind so that the depth of water at the shallow end of the bath is often 3 ft. 6 ins., which can prove a frightening depth of water for children who are unable to swim. The conflicting demands of adult swimmers and juvenile non-swimmers can be provided for by a shallow-water teaching bath either separate from or linked to the main pool. If such a feature could be included in the design of any future public swimming bath built in the town it would prove of great value to school classes.

The construction at Mortimer County Secondary School, Brinkburn, of a cinder running track was carried out during the summer months and it will be available for use in 1962. The track has 7 lanes of 440 yards and in addition there are full facilities for high jump, long jump, triple jump, pole vault, weight, discus and javelin, all constructed according to the full specifications recommended by the Amateur Athletic Association. All these facilities will be available for schools and youth clubs and should do much to encourage participation in track and field athletics.

A cricket coaching course for men teachers in primary and secondary schools was held at the beginning of the cricket season. The course lasted five weeks and was conducted by the professional of the South Shields Cricket Club. In October a week-end coaching course in table tennis was arranged for youth club members and teachers, and was taken by an official coach of the English Table Tennis Association. During the year several children have had the opportunity of attending courses organised by National Bodies of Sport. Four children went to a coaching course arranged by the Schools Athletic Association, and for the first time teachers and children took part in a course arranged by the Amateur Gymnastic Association. A netball course conducted by a national coach at Redwell County Secondary School was much appreciated by the large numbers who attended.

Indoor five-a-side football has become a popular winter sport for youth clubs. The South Shields Council of Boys' Clubs organised two leagues during the winter months, for the third season, the games being played in school gymnasia on two evenings each week. Twenty teams took part in the competition and in addition several other youth clubs used gymnasia for an evening devoted to this sport. Objective games of this type are much more popular with modern youth than the " keep-fit " type of class based on physical exercises and it is good to see the enthusiasm for this game and to know that so many youths are spending enjoyable evenings in pleasant surroundings participating in such a healthy physical activity. The indoor golf coaching classes which have been held for several years have also become increasingly popular. Last year it was necessary to form two classes and this year both classes were again filled to capacity for both winter sessions. Interesting features of these classes have been that almost as many women as men have joined the classes and that very few of either sex have been young people. The success of these classes is an indication of the astonishing increase in the popularity of the game of golf in a very short space of time. Only about five years ago the game appeared to be declining in popularity, and membership of many clubs was falling. The position has changed so completely that now several local clubs have their full quota of members and have been obliged, for the first time since the last world war, to introduce a waiting list for new members.

It is pleasing to note that in addition to much local inter-school competition in a variety of games, more schools are now arranging fixtures with schools in neighbouring areas. As well as stimulating interest in the game itself the social training derived from these games is most valuable.

In March a Festival of Dance was held at Redwell County Secondary School. A performance, with representatives from all types of schools was given each evening for a week, a total of approximately 1,300 children from nearly all schools in the Borough taking part. The teachers concerned with the training of the children and also those responsible for their delightful appearance were sincerely congratulated.

School Baths

The following attendances of School parties were recorded at the Derby Street Baths during 1961:—

Boys	21,098
Girls	14,479
Total	35,577

Average Heights and Weights of School Children 1961

Age	No. of Children		Height (in inches)		Weight (in lbs.)	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
5— 6	926	859	43.87	43.62	44.31	43.14
10—11	838	780	54.87	55.51	76.09	77.34
14—15	965	945	63.20	61.98	116.15	113.70

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK

Free Meals—Dinner only

Total number of meals supplied to children during the year 1961—226,528.

Number of individual children supplied—1,261.

Total cost (food only)—£9,109.

Number of Centres—34 (6 of which are open during school holidays).

Free Milk

Number of individual children supplied—16,400 (approx.)

Total quantity supplied (third pints)—3,069,810—127,909 gallons.

Total cost (milk only)—£29,237.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

The ascertainment of handicapped children has been effected as usual by the records of Health Visitors of children under school age, returns from the School Attendance Department of all children removed from the registers who on account of prolonged illness were otherwise not in attendance at school and notification from hospitals and family doctors of such children. The records of the Tuberculosis Clinic have also been searched.

4 handicapped children were in hospital or sanatorium.

It is perhaps not realised that the ascertainment of handicapped children according to the provisions of the Education Act is of untold benefit and advantage to these boys and girls particularly in later life. Now that the system is in full operation, it means that there is one agency which is specially concerned with their health and educational problems and with their well-being both in and out of school.

10 of the children have been receiving home tuition by arrangement with the Education Department.

A number of delicate children now attending ordinary schools were withdrawn from the Cleadon Park Special School by their parents, or for poor attendance.

The following tables summarise the numbers by age group and disability as in January, 1962 and include children of 2 years and upwards:—

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BY DISABILITY

Category Disability	In Special Schools		Awaiting Admission to Special Schools		In Ordinary Schools		In Independent Schools		Receiving Home Tuition		Not at School		In Hospitals or Sanatoria		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
(1) Blind	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
(2) Partially sighted	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(3) Deaf	6	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3
(4) Partially Deaf	2	2	—	1	1	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	8
(5) Delicate	49	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	50	42
(6) Physically Handicapped	9	11	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	4	11	7	2	2	25	27
(7) Educationally Sub-normal	80	60	—	—	55	33	—	—	2	—	10	6	—	—	147	99
(8) Maladjusted ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
(9) Epileptic	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1
TOTALS ...	154	121	3	4	56	38	3	—	6	4	22	13	2	2	246	182

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BY AGE GROUPS

Age	In Special Schools		Awaiting Admission to Special Schools		In Ordinary Schools		In Independent Schools		Receiving Home Tuition		Not at School		In Hospitals or Sanatoria		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
2+	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	4	2
3+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	3	—	—	9	3
4+	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5	1	—	10	6
5+	6	2	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	8	5
6+	4	2	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	9	6
7+	15	6	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	18	8
8+	18	8	—	—	5	6	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	26	15
9+	16	17	1	1	9	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	26	20
10+	14	10	—	—	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	15
11+	9	18	—	1	7	3	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	19	24
12+	22	12	—	—	5	8	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	29	20
13+	16	17	—	—	8	5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	25	23
14+	19	20	—	—	10	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	30	26
15+	12	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	13	9
16+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	154	121	3	4	56	38	3	—	6	4	22	13	2	2	246	182

Educationally Sub-Normal

During 1961, 69 children who were reported by the head teachers or brought to notice in other ways as very much retarded in educational progress, were specially examined by the school medical officers, whose recommendations are summarised below.

Educationally sub-normal:—

	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*
1. For ordinary school with special provision	3	2	5
2. For special day school	12	11	23
3. For special boarding school	4	1	5
Referred to Child Guidance Clinic	20	4	24
Referred for further examination (scholars)	6	3	9
Referred for further examination (under 5)	3	—	3
Found not to be E.S.N.	—	—	—

11 children were recommended to be reported to the Local Health Authority with a view to their being sent to hospital, being kept under supervision or for special training.

	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*
(*a*) Unfit for education at school	1	1	2
(*b*) Under Section 57(4 & 5) Education Act, 1944 (requiring special training)	3	2	5
(*c*) Under Section 57(4) Education Act, 1944 (Amended) (requiring supervision on leaving school)	2	2	4

At the end of 1961, there were 246 educationally sub-normal children under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee, as under:—

	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*
In special day schools	71	59	130
In special residential schools	9	1	10
Awaiting admission to residential schools	—	—	—
In maintained schools	55	33	88
In independent schools	—	—	—
Receiving home tuition	2	—	2
Not at school	10	6	16

Special Day E.S.N. School

The curriculum of the school was the same as described in previous reports. There is accommodation for 120 children and at the end of the year, there were 122 children on register. 23 were admitted and 28 left. Of those leaving, 1 was sent to special residential school, 4 were recommended for further supervision, 1 was reported to the Local Health Authority as ineducable, 8 returned to ordinary schools, 3 left the town and the remaining 11 were placed in employment.

Cleadon Park Special School (Delicate and Partially Sighted and Physically Handicapped)

The school accommodates 150 children in five classes of 30. During the year the following children attended:—

	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*
On 1st January, 1961	64	70	134
Entrants	14	6	20
Leavers	12	19	31
On 31st December, 1961	66	57	123

The pupils are classified as follows:—

	Boys	*Girls*
Partially Deaf	—	1
Asthma	4	2
Anaemia	—	2
Bronchitis and Asthma	2	1
Heart diseases	1	2
Bronchitis	13	3
Crippling defects	8	10
Debility	29	29
Nervous defects	3	5
Partially sighted	—	1
Epilepsy	5	1
Maladjusted	1	—

Child Guidance Treatment

24 children were referred to the Child Guidance Clinic in Sunderland during 1961. 12 of these cases were sent by the Children's Officer or Magistrates, having been before the courts for stealing. By careful handling and understanding of the child's grievance and background, much can be achieved to help him to overcome his difficulties. We are again grateful for the valuable reports given by the staff of the Sunderland Education Authority Child Guidance Centre.

Nursery Classes—Harton Infants' School

The grouping of the children was the same as described in previous reports, 90 infants being in attendance either on a full or half-time basis. This arrangement has proved satisfactory to meet the needs of this particular area up till now and it has never been necessary to go beyond the boundary in order to complete the number of children in each class. During 1961 the facilities for play and exercise were extended by the acquisition of extra equipment which included swings, slides. ladders and climbing frames. There is no doubt that in this way physical development will be improved and independence of action and initiation of movement encouraged.

Generally the nutrition and the clothing of the children were of a high standard.

At the routine inspection 4 children were found to have defects which required treatment and there were also 17 defects which required to be kept under observation. The majority of these cases were of a temporary or minor nature and it is pleasing to know that when the child is ready to commence his proper school curriculum his disorder will be remedied or improved.

School Psychological Service

The Education Psychologist, Mr. I. R. McKenzie, B.Sc. (Psych.), reports as follows:—

In the year 1961, 55 new cases have been referred to the educational psychologist. 7 of the previous year's cases are still receiving treatment.

This does not include those referred to the S.M.O. as being in need of special schooling at an E.S.N. school, and it does not include all the children being assisted by the Remedial Reading Scheme. Some of the children referred to the educational psychologist are eventually placed within the Remedial Reading Scheme but most of those receiving assistance within this scheme are not considered as psychological cases, but rather as educational cases.

Of the 55 new cases 18 were diagnosed as being primarily Backward or Retarded, and 37 were diagnosed as being primarily Maladjusted. It was felt that specialised help would be beneficial to 14 of the 18 children in the Backward or Retarded category, and 8 were placed within the Remedial Reading Scheme and 6 were given individual assistance from the educational psychologist. The remaining 4 were found to be backward or dull with regard to ability, but, in fact, they were actually working to their full potential. 16 of the 37 in the Maladjusted category were seen only the once and the parents and teachers were given some guidance. Of the remaining 21, 19 received weekly or fortnightly treatment from the psychologist, and two received some further psychiatric treatment.

Of the 7 cases continued from the previous year, 3 were cases from the Backward or Retarded category, and the remaining 4 were from the Maladjusted category. All 3 of the Backward and Retarded Category were seen individually by the psychologist. Of the 16 Maladjusted children all but one saw the psychologist at some time for some treatment. The remaining one continued with psychiatric treatment.

The ratio of boys to girls with reference to all cases was about two to one.

The number of referrals within the various age-groups was much as might have been expected in a growing service. 30 of the new cases were from Secondary Schools, 18 from Primary Schools and 7 from Infants' Schools.

Backward or Retarded

New Cases	*Diagnostic Interview*	*Individual Treatment*	*Remedial Scheme*
Secondary	7	3	4
Junior	8	3	4
Infant	3	0	0
Total	18	6	8
Continued Cases			
Secondary	—	1	0
Junior	—	2	0
Infants	—	0	0
Total	—	3	0

Maladjusted or Emotionally Disturbed

New Cases	*Diagnostic Interview*	*Psychological Treatment*	*Psychiatric Treatment*
Secondary	23	12	1
Junior	10	6	1
Infants	4	1	0
Total	37	19	2

Continued Cases	*Diagnostic Interview*	*Psychological Treatment*	*Psychiatric Treatment*
Secondary	—	1	0
Junior	—	1	1
Infant	—	1	0
Total	—	3	1

The Remedial Reading Scheme mentioned above seems to have been a successful venture. In June, 1961, a Remedial Reading Centre was started at Laygate Junior School. The first intake consisted of 56 children taken largely from the 10+ age group of the Primary School. All the children were considered to be retarded in reading. They were placed in small groups, according to their reading level. each group having 4 pupils. The groups were given a one-hour period of instruction every week, and this was supplemented with homework. Children were also able to borrow a library book suitable for their reading level.

The average of the Chronological Ages in June, 1961, was 10 y. 3 m. (10.25y). The average of the Reading Ages was 6.7 years.

During late November, 1961, and early December, 1961, all the children were re-tested for the first time. They had then been attending the course for approximately six months, this being inclusive of the summer break. Of course the average Chronological Age was now 10 y. 9 m. (10.75y.). The average Reading Age was now 7.8 years. In other words there had been an average improvement in reading attainment of 1.1 years during the six months. Individual differences were very significant, the total range of improvement being 0.2 yrs. to 3.3 yrs.

However, 45 of the 56 cases fell between 0.4 years and 1.6 years improvement. The scheme has now been extended and there are now places for 80 children.

Speech Therapy

Miss Maureen Ogle, L.C.S.T., reports as follows:—

Total No. of children with Speech Defects—462.

Boys	304
Girls	156
No. of Schools Visited	26

Categories of Speech Defects

(*a*) Functional Dyslalia—Defect of articulation due to psychological reason or lack of maturation.

(*b*) Sigmatism—Interdental—lateral or nasal ‘ s.’

(*c*) Stammer—Primary and Secondary stages.

(*d*) Dysphonia—Defect of voice including cleft palate.

(*e*) Others—Including Dysphasics, deafness.

Dyslalia	219
Sigmatism	104
Stammer	102
Dysphonia	16
Others	21
Total	462

No. of children received treatment—72.

Results of Treatment

Discharged (improved)	20
Discharged (left district or left school)	5
Improved	43
Slight improvement	4
	72

No. of hearing tests given—23.

Hearing tests are given to children attending clinic as routine and 23 other tests have been given to children recommended by other sources e.g., E.N.T. Specialist and School Medical Officers.

The Speech Therapy Service is now well established and running smoothly.

Teacher and Teacher Candidates

22 teachers, 16 males and 6 females, and 62 teacher candidates, 35 females and 27 males were examined and X-rayed according to regulations.

The defects among the teacher candidates were as follows:—

Defective vision	29
Colour vision defect	1
Deformity of thigh	1
Foot deformity	1
Spine abnormality	1

Among the teachers there were 4 cases of defective vision.

In no instance was it found necessary to defer or reject a candidate or teacher.

Other Examinations

No children were medically examined for the stage.

421 children temporarily employed out of school hours were examined in accordance with local Byelaws. Two were referred for second examination and were eventually passed fit.

Deaths among School Children

The following is a statement of the causes of death during 1961 of children of school age (5 to 14).

Causes of Death	Boys		Girls		Total
	5—9	10—14	5—9	10—14	
Pulmonary Haemosiderosis ...	—	—	—	1	1
Purpura	—	—	1	—	1
Leukaemia	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	1	—	1	1	3

The *average annual deaths* among school children and pre-school children since 1901 were as follows:—

Quinquennium	*Under 1*	*1/4 years*	*5/14 years*	*Average Annual Deaths*
1901-5	539	302	101	942
1906-10	455	266	82	803
1911-15	440	268	94	802
1916-20	388	251	136	775
1921-25	318	202	92	612
1926-30	240	146	88	474
1931-35	186	100	72	358
1936-40	136	59	53	248
1941-45	127	38	36	200
1946-50	105	23	15	143
1951-55	68	12	8	88
1956-60	46	6	6	58
1961	*52*	*7*	*3*	*62*

This remarkable saving in child life is an index of the efficacy of maternity and child welfare services and later the school health services, together with the modern treatment of illness by both medical practitioners and hospitals, whilst the reduction of infectious diseases in childhood also contributes to this wonderful achievement.

Clinic for Mentally Subnormal

Dr. George McCoull, Medical Superintendent of Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital held 6 sessions during the year and examined 6 children as well as adults and pre-school children, referred by the School Medical Staff, the Mental Welfare Officers and General Practitioners. These cases were mentally subnormal, and the low grades were usually recommended for institutional care.

PART I—Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained and Secondary Schools (Including Nursery and Special Schools)

TABLE A—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Age Groups Inspected (By year of birth)	No. of Pupils	Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected			
		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1957 and later	28	28	100	—	—
1956	460	460	100	—	—
1955	1,177	1,173	99.66	4	0.34
1954	311	309	99.36	2	0.64
1953	48	48	100	—	—
1952	26	25	96.15	1	3.85
1951	35	35	100	—	—
1950	1,167	1,160	99.40	7	0.60
1949	570	570	100	—	—
1948	28	28	100	—	—
1947	1,164	1,161	99.74	3	0.26
1946 and earlier	961	959	99.79	2	0.21
TOTAL ...	5,975	5,956	99.68	19	0.32

TABLE B—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT AT PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

(excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin)

Age Groups Inspected (By year of birth) (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Part II (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
1957 and later	—	3	2
1956	1	70	55
1955	3	125	117
1954	4	32	28
1953	1	11	9
1952	1	17	14
1951	4	9	11
1950	105	153	224
1949	41	65	96
1948	3	6	9
1947	104	97	184
1946 and earlier	94	69	149
TOTAL ...	361	657	898

TABLE C—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	1,754
Number of Re-inspections	1,918
Total	3,672

TABLE D—INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

	1st Survey	2nd Survey
(*a*) Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by school nurses or other authorised persons	20,568	19,942
Individual pupils examined	19,519	18,971
(*b*) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	604	480
(*c*) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	628	511
(*d*) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	—	2

TABLE A—PERIODIC INSPECTIONS

Defect Code No. (1)	Defect or Disease (2)	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS							
		Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
		Requiring treatment (3)	Requiring observation (4)	Requiring treatment (5)	Requiring observation (6)	Requiring treatment (7)	Requiring observation (8)	Requiring treatment (9)	Requiring observation (10)
4	Skin	9	97	53	77	34	96	96	270
5	Eyes—(a) Vision	5	26	193	181	170	113	368	320
	(b) Squint	41	67	7	26	19	39	67	132
	(c) Other	9	28	7	30	19	16	35	74
6	Ears—(a) Hearing	6	29	5	6	9	7	20	42
	(b) Otitis Media	3	13	2	6	8	12	13	31
	(c) Other	2	7	4	8	7	7	13	22
7	Nose and Throat	71	330	25	88	56	135	152	553
8	Speech	13	41	4	9	13	20	30	70
9	Lymphatic Glands	8	27	—	29	1	22	9	78
10	Heart	5	31	7	29	9	36	21	96
11	Lungs	9	78	2	27	3	63	14	168
12	Developmental—								
	(a) Hernia	1	13	1	2	—	6	2	21
	(b) Other	3	16	1	24	3	8	7	48
13	Orthopaedic—								
	(a) Posture	8	67	1	31	—	38	9	136
	(b) Feet	11	217	7	56	38	173	56	446
	(c) Other	4	65	8	88	19	175	31	328
14	Nervous System—								
	(a) Epilepsy	—	1	1	3	8	—	9	4
	(b) Other	1	9	2	10	—	9	3	28
15	Psychological—								
	(a) Development	2	48	1	5	3	28	6	81
	(b) Stability	—	25	—	6	2	24	2	55
16	Abdomen	—	8	1	5	1	7	2	20
17	Other	12	35	18	55	23	49	53	139

TABLE B—SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

Defect Code No. (1)	Defects or Disease (2)	SPECIAL INSPECTIONS Pupils requiring Treatment (3)	 Pupils requiring Observation (4)
4	Skin	825	2
5	Eyes—(a) Vision	197	—
	(b) Squint	17	5
	(c) Other	107	8
6	Ears—(a) Hearing	18	13
	(b) Otitis Media	12	—
	(c) Other	95	5
7	Nose and Throat	94	46
8	Speech	6	4
9	Lymphatic Glands	1	—
10	Heart	1	—
11	Lungs	38	3
12	Developmental—		
	(a) Hernia	—	—
	(b) Other	2	1
13	Orthopaedic—		
	(a) Posture	—	—
	(b) Feet	6	2
	(c) Other	10	3
14	Nervous System—		
	(a) Epilepsy	1	—
	(b) Other	7	2
15	Psychological—		
	(a) Development	2	—
	(b) Stability	—	—
16	Abdomen	—	—
17	Other	279	73

PART III—TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING NURSERY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS)

TABLE A—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	82
Errors of refraction (including squint)	139
Total	221
No. of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	1,312

TABLE B—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with
Received operative treatment—	
(*a*) for diseases of the ear	15
(*b*) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	445
(*c*) for other nose and throat conditions	121
Received other forms of treatment	156
Total	737
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been provided with hearing aids—	
(*a*) in 1961	3
(*b*) in previous years	10

TABLE C—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

	No. of cases known to have been treated
(*a*) Pupils treated at clinics or out-patients departments	45
(*b*) Pupils treated at school for postural defects	—
Total	45

TABLE D—DISEASES OF THE SKIN

(excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table D of Part I)

	No. of cases known to have been treated
Ringworm—(*a*) Scalp	2
(*b*) Body	2
Scabies	26
Impetigo	82
Other skin diseases	713
Total	825

TABLE E—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

	No. of cases known to have been treated
Pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	24

TABLE F—SPEECH THERAPY

	No. of cases known to have been treated
Pupils treated by speech therapists...........	72

TABLE G—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with
(*a*) Pupils with minor ailments	172
(*b*) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements	1
(*c*) Pupils who received B.C.G. Vaccination	1,412
(*d*) Other than (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) above. Please specify:	
Injuries 97; Arthritis 1; Chorea 1 ...	99
Observation 81; Stomach Upset 1 ...	82
Enuresis 3; Asthma 8	11
Bronchitis 5; Meningitis 1..............	6
Rheumatism 2; Appendicitis 68	70
Hepatitis 4; Epilepsy 1	5
Total (*a*)—(*d*)	1,858

PART IV—Dental Inspection and Treatment Carried out by the Authority

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:—

(*a*)	At Periodic Inspections	7,296	Total (1)	8,491
(*b*)	As Special	1,195		

(2) Number found to require treatment			5,459
(3) Number offered treatment			4,036
(4) Number actually treated			3,014
(5) Number of attendances made by pupils for treatment including those recorded at 11(h)			6,349
(6) Half days devoted to:			
(*a*) Periodic (School) Inspection	51	Total (6)	739
(*b*) Treatment	688		
(7) Fillings:			
(*a*) Permanent Teeth	2,288	Total (7)	2,428
(*b*) Temporary Teeth	140		
(8) Number of Teeth filled:			
(*a*) Permanent Teeth	2,233	Total (8)	2,362
(*b*) Temporary Teeth	129		
(9) Extractions:			
(*a*) Permanent Teeth	641	Total (9)	3,439
(*b*) Temporary Teeth	2,798		
(10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction			1,289

(11) Orthodontics:	
(*a*) Cases commenced during the year	58
(*b*) Cases brought forward from previous year	36
(*c*) Cases completed during the year	38
(*d*) Cases discontinued during the year	3
(*e*) Pupils treated with appliances	55
(*f*) Removable appliances fitted	56
(*g*) Fixed appliances fitted	—
(*h*) Total attendances	307

(12) Number of pupils supplied with artificial teeth			42
(13) Other operations:			
(*a*) Permanent Teeth	785	Total (13)	1,061
(*b*) Temporary Teeth	276		

Wm. Dresser & Sons Ltd.

Crown St, Darlington.

SCHOOL OF HYGIENE ★ MEDICINE
LIBRARY
15 OCT 1962